

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn) An expandable cage for an embolic filtering device used to capture embolic debris in a body vessel, the cage comprising:

a circumferential member adapted to move between a collapsed position and an expanded position, the circumferential member including a plurality of bending regions formed therein;

a proximal strut attached to the circumferential member; and

a distal strut attached to the circumferential member.

2. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 1, wherein the proximal strut and distal strut are attached to the circumferential member at bending regions.

3. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 1, wherein the proximal strut has a free end which is adapted to be rotatably mounted on an elongated member.

4. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 1, further including a plurality of proximal struts attached to bending regions located on the circumferential member.

5. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 1, further including a plurality of distal struts attached to bending regions located on the circumferential member.

6. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 1, further including a second circumferential member attached to the first mentioned circumferential member, the second circumferential member including a plurality of bending regions formed therein; wherein the distal strut is attached to the second circumferential member.

7. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 6, wherein the proximal strut is attached to the first circumferential member at a bending region and the distal strut is attached to the second circumferential member at a bending region.
8. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 6, wherein the first and second circumferential members are attached to each other by at least one connecting strut.
9. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 7, wherein the first and second circumferential members are attached to each other by at least one connecting strut.
10. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 8, wherein the connecting strut is attached at bending regions of the first and second circumferential members.
11. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 9, wherein the connecting strut is attached at bending regions of the first and second circumferential members.
12. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 8, wherein the connecting strut is made from a different material than the proximal strut and distal strut.
13. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 8, wherein the connecting strut is independently capable of expanding or contracting when subjected to a certain amount of force.
14. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 8, wherein the connecting strut has an S-shape.
15. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 14, wherein the S-shape of the connecting strut is capable of expanding or contracting when subjected to a certain amount of force.
16. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 6, further including a plurality of proximal struts attached to bending regions located on the first circumferential member.

17. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 16, further including a plurality of distal struts attached to bending regions located on the second circumferential member.

18. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 1, wherein each bending region is located about 180 degrees apart from the other on the circumferential member.

19. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 1, wherein each bending region has a substantial U shape.

20. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 19, wherein each U-shaped bending region is oriented opposite each other.

21. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 6, wherein each bending region is located about 180 degrees apart from the other on the circumferential member.

22. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 6, wherein each bending region has a substantial U shape.

23. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 22, wherein each U-shaped bending region is oriented opposite each other.

24-46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously Presented) An embolic filtering device used to capture embolic debris in a body vessel, comprising:
a guide wire having a proximal end and a distal end; and
an expandable filter assembly mounted near the distal end of the guide wire, the filter assembly including a self-expanding cage having a proximal circumferential member adapted to move between a collapsed position and an expanded position, the proximal circumferential member including a plurality of bending regions formed therein, a distal circumferential member adapted to move between a collapsed position and an expanded position, the distal circumferential

member including a plurality of bending regions formed therein, the proximal circumferential member being connected to the distal circumferential member, a proximal strut attached to the proximal circumferential member, a distal strut attached to the distal circumferential member, and a filter element attached to the self-expanding cage, wherein the bending regions of the proximal circumferential member are connected to and in phase with the bending regions of the distal circumferential member.

48. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 47, wherein the proximal strut and distal strut are attached to the proximal and distal circumferential members at bending regions.

49. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 47, further including a plurality of proximal struts attached to bending regions located on the proximal circumferential member.

50. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 49, further including a plurality of distal struts attached to bending regions located on the distal circumferential member.

51. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 47, further including another circumferential member attached to and located between the proximal circumferential member and the distal circumferential member.

52. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 47, wherein the proximal and distal circumferential members are attached to each other by at least one connecting strut.

53. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 47, further including a plurality of connecting struts connecting to bending regions formed on the proximal and distal circumferential members.

54. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 51, wherein the connecting strut is attached at bending regions of the proximal and distal circumferential members.

55. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 51, wherein the connecting strut is made from a different material than the proximal strut and distal strut.

56. (Previously Presented) An embolic filtering device used to capture embolic debris in a body vessel, comprising:
a guide wire having a proximal end and a distal end; and
an expandable filter assembly mounted near the distal end of the guide wire, the filter assembly including a self-expanding cage having a proximal circumferential member adapted to move between a collapsed position and an expanded position, the proximal circumferential member including a plurality of bending regions formed therein, a distal circumferential member adapted to move between a collapsed position and an expanded position, the distal circumferential member including a plurality of bending regions formed therein, the proximal circumferential member being connected to the distal circumferential member, a plurality of proximal struts attached to the proximal circumferential member, a plurality of distal struts attached to the distal circumferential member, and a filter element attached to the self-expanding cage, wherein the bending regions of the proximal circumferential member are connected to and in phase with the bending regions of the distal circumferential member.

57. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 56, wherein each of the proximal struts is attached to a bending region on the proximal circumferential member and each of the distal struts is attached to a bending region on the distal circumferential member.

58. (Withdrawn) The cage of claim 54, further including another circumferential member attached to and located between the proximal circumferential member and the distal circumferential member.

59. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 56, wherein the proximal and distal circumferential members are attached to each other by at least one connecting strut.

60. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 56, further including a plurality of connecting struts which connect the proximal circumferential member to the distal circumferential member.

61. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 60, wherein each connecting member is attached at a bending region on each of the proximal and distal circumferential member.

62-70. (Canceled)

71. (Previously Presented) An embolic filtering device used to capture embolic debris in a body vessel, comprising:

a guide wire having a proximal end and a distal end; and

an expandable filter assembly rotatably attached to the distal end of the guide wire, the filter assembly including a self-expanding cage having a proximal circumferential member having a plurality of bending regions formed therein, a distal circumferential member having a plurality of bending regions formed therein, the proximal circumferential member being connected to the distal circumferential member, and a filter element attached to the self-expanding cage, wherein the bending regions of the proximal circumferential member are in phase with the bending regions of the distal circumferential member.

72. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 71, wherein the self-expanding cage includes a proximal strut having a first end rotatably attached to the distal end of the guide wire and a second end attached to the proximal circumferential member.

73. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 71, further including a coil tip attached to the filter assembly.

74. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 73, further including a distal strut having one end attached to the distal circumferential member and a second end coupled to the coil tip.

75. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 71, wherein each bending region is located about 180 degrees apart from the other on each of the proximal and distal circumferential members.

76. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 71, wherein the proximal and distal circumferential members are attached to each other by at least one connecting strut.

77. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 71, wherein the proximal and distal circumferential members are attached to each other at bending regions.

78. (Previously Presented) An embolic filtering device used to capture embolic debris in a body vessel, comprising:

a guide wire having a proximal end and a distal end; and

an expandable filter assembly mounted near the distal end of the guide wire, the filter assembly including a self-expanding cage having a proximal circumferential member with a plurality of proximal and distal bending regions formed therein, a distal circumferential member with a plurality of proximal and

distal bending regions formed therein, the proximal and distal circumferential members being movable between a collapsed position and an expanded position, a proximal strut attached to each of the proximal bending regions of the proximal circumferential member, and a filter element attached to the self-expanding cage, wherein the proximal bending regions of the proximal and distal circumferential members are connected together and the distal bending regions of the proximal and distal circumferential members are connected together.

79. (Previously presented) The filtering device of claim 78, wherein the bending regions of the proximal circumferential member are in phase with the bending region of the distal circumferential member.

80. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 78, wherein the proximal struts each include a first end which is attached to the distal end of the guide wire and a second end attached to the proximal bending region of the proximal circumferential member.

81. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 78, wherein first ends of the proximal struts are rotatably attached to the guide wire.

82. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 78, wherein each proximal bending region is located about 180 degrees apart from the other on each of the proximal and distal circumferential members.

83. (Previously Presented) An embolic filtering device used to capture embolic debris in a body vessel, comprising:

a guide wire having a proximal end and a distal end; and

an expandable filter assembly mounted near the distal end of the guide wire, the filter assembly including a self-expanding cage having a proximal circumferential member with a plurality of proximal U-shaped bending regions

and a plurality of distal U-shaped bending regions formed therein, a distal circumferential member with a plurality of proximal U-shaped bending regions and a plurality of distal U-shaped bending regions formed therein, the proximal and distal circumferential members being movable between an collapsed position and an expanded position, and a filter element attached to the self-expanding cage, wherein the proximal U-shaped bending regions of the proximal and distal circumferential members are connected together and in phase with each other.

84. (Previously Presented) The filtering device of claim 83, wherein the distal U-shaped bending regions of the proximal and distal circumferential members are connected together and in phase with each other.

85. (New) The filtering device of claim 83, wherein each of proximal and distal U-shaped bending regions substantially retains its shaped in both the expanded and collapsed positions.